

Bluffton Police Department



Colonel David F. McAllister
Chief of Police

NEWS RELEASE

Lt. Joe Babkiewicz
Media Coordinator
843-706-4550
843-540-3949

jbabkiewicz@townofbluffton.com

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TWO ARRESTED FOR RECENT VEHICLE BREAK-INS

An extensive investigation into recent vehicle break-ins has led to the arrest of two individuals. Since January 2012 to present, there have been 57 vehicle break-ins within the Town of Bluffton. All vehicles were reported unlocked and there was no forced entry. The majority of items stolen were electronic items and U.S. currency. These incidents centered on the following communities; Pinecrest, Pineridge, Bluffton Park, the Farm, Hampton Hall, and Wellstone.

Investigators who have been working the cases were able to obtain a store video in which two individuals, Al Jordan Mitchell and Alfonza Powell were seen using a stolen gift card from one of the vehicles. A search warrant was obtained for Mitchell and Powell's residence located at 218 Simmonsville Road, Bluffton, South Carolina. There were approximately 12 GPS systems, one handgun, several I-pods and cell phones, and one set of car keys (from a stolen vehicle) which were recovered from the residence. This evidence linked these suspects to 25 different cases and a total of 37 felony charges of Breaking into a Motor Vehicle were filed against Powell and Mitchell. Powell is currently being held at the Beaufort County Detention Center on a \$125,000 Bond. Mitchell is being held at the Beaufort County Detention center on a \$55,000 Bond.

During the investigation, it was discovered that these individuals would walk communities late at night looking for unlocked vehicles. When one was found, they would enter the vehicle and take any small valuables or loose change found inside the vehicle. Investigators are in the process of notifying victim's, however, if you are a victim of a recent vehicle break in, you are encouraged to contact the Bluffton Police Department to identify any recovered items that may be yours at 843-706-4550.

These incidents are crimes of opportunity. The Bluffton Police Department suggests to residents that they secure their vehicles at all times when left unattended and to remove anything of value from them.

ARRESTED



Alfonza Powell
218 Simmonsville Road
Bluffton, South Carolina
Dob: 04/15/1993

Charges:

B & E Auto (25 counts) – SC Statute 16-13-160- Felony



Al Jordan Mitchell
218 Simmonsville Road
Bluffton, South Carolina
DOB: 11/26/1992

Charges:

B & E Auto (11 counts)- SC Statute 16-13-160- Felony